By the King.

A Proclamation prohibiting the Merchant Aduenturers Charter from henceforth to be put in practiſe or execution, either within the Kingdome, or beyond the Seas.

AS there is no great action, which tendeth to the aduancement of a **publique good, but it requireth certaine degrees of timely proceeding, and neuertheleſſe meeteth with diuers impediments; ſome by accident, and ſome by practiſe: So is there nothing that doeth more adorne the true Maieſtie and greatneſſe of Soueraigne Princes, then to be conſtant in their wel-grounded Reſolutions, and by their policie and lawfull power, to ſcatter and beat downe all difficulties, and vndue oppoſitions, vntil they haue conducted their Actions to a good and happy end: Wee therefore, hauing propounded vnto Our ſelues; as a principall Worke of Our times, to ordeine and prouide, that the great commoditie of Broad-cloth, being one of the principall Dowries of Our Kingdome, may receiue the due Manufactures of Dying and Dreſſing within the Realme;** did to that end publiſh Our Royall Proclamation, dated the three and twentieth day of July laſt, prohibiting and ordeyning, **That no Broad-cloth, of what ſort ſoeuer, made here Within this Our Kingdome of** England, **ſhould be Exported Undied and Undreſt, after the ſecond day of** Nouember **next enſuing the date of Our ſaid Proclamation: which time was giuen, aſwell for the Merchant Aduenturers, to vent their Whites, which might be vpon their hands, as for the preparing of diuers things, neceſſary to the ſetling of the new Trade of Died and dreſſed Clothes. And We did further by Our ſaid Proclamation promiſe** in the Word of a King **to all Our louing Subiects, that ſhould vndertake to Export the ſaid Broad-clothes in their true Manufactures, that neither the Charter of the Merchant Aduenturers, nor any other Licences or Diſpenſations by** Non obſtantes, **contrary to Our Lawes, heretofore granted by Us, or any Our Predeceſſors, ſhould be any maner of preiudice, impeachment, diſturbance, or interruption to ſuch, as ſhould after the time aforeſaid vent the ſaid Clothes Died and Dreſſed, according to Our ſaid Royall Ordinance and conſtitution; but ſhould be from the ſaid ſecond day of** Nouember, **declared to be annihilated, & made void to all intents and purpoſes. At which time of the publiſhing of Our ſaid Proclamation, We did expect that the ſaid Charter of the Merchant Aduenturers ſhould, before the ſaid ſecond day of** Nouember, **haue bene in due forme of Law surrendred: But after, finding the ſaid Company of Merchant Aduenturers to make difficulty concerning the Surrender of their Patent; We haue bene enforced through**

their wilfulnesse and inconformitie, aswell to order a Legall course to be taken for the ouerthrowe of their said Patent: as also to license diuers of Our louing Subiects, that haue very worthily, and with great alacrity, vndertaken to set vp and manage the said Trade of Dyed and Dressed Clothes, to export also Whites in the meane while, vntill such time as the said Patent of the Merchant Aduenturers shall be by iudgement euicted, and some respite of time afterwards, lest there might haue ensued some stand of the vent of Cloth before the new Trade were setled: But for as much as the course of a iudiciall proceeding, though in a Case neuer so cleare & plaine, must haue due formes & times obserued according to the rules of Law, & for that time in this case is exceeding precious, and that it is not possible for the new intended Company, to goe on with that confidence and incouragement, that in so great a businesse were fit, as long as the Charter of the Merchant-Aduenturers is put in vre, and practise:

Therefore to remoue and discharge all discouragements and impediments: Wee doe by these presents prohibite, forbid, constitute and ordeine, That from henceforth the Charter of the said Merchant aduenturers, and all powers, Lycences, authorities, priuiledges, formes of gouernement contained in the same, or otherwise all vsages, holding of Courts, meetings, assemblies, and all other proceedings, by colour or vertue thereof, together with all the dependances, be not from henceforth put in any manner of practise or execution, either in the parts beyond the Seas, or here within Our Kingdome. And to that end, Wee doe not onely notifie and publish this Our Royall prohibition and ordinance, aswell to all Forreiners, as to all Our louing Subiects, to whom it may appertaine: But doe furthermore straitly and expressly charge and commaund, aswel the Gouernour, Deputie, or Deputies, and Assistants of the said Company of the Merchant Aduenturers, as the whole bodie of them, and also euery of them in particuler, and all their Factors, Seruants and Ministers, aswell beyond the Seas, as on this side, within Our Kingdome and Dominions; That from this time forwards, they doe in no wise presume, directly or indirectly, to doe, performe, or execute any Trade, Traffique, or Marchandizing, into, or from any the Countryes, or places where the said Merchant Aduenturers, are, or haue beene priuiledged, or any point or thing whatsoeuer, by vertue or colour of their said Charter, or by vertue of any former treatie or treaties, betwixt any Our noble Progenitors, or Predecessors, and any Prince or Potentate, Citie or politique Gouernment, or former vsages, vpon paine of Our High indignation, imprisonment, and other punishment, which by Our Lawes or Prerogatiue Royall, may bee inflicted vpon them: Letting them know, that We shall proceede against euery such offender, as a contemner of Our Royall Commandement, and a disturber of so excellent a worke, wherein we haue so farre declared Our selues for the Vniuersall Weale, and comfort of Our people.

Prouided neuertheless, that where Our Treasurer of England hath directed his Letters to the Officers of Our Custome-house, and Ports, giuing libertie of importation, onely vntill the last of this present Moneth of December: That these presents shall not any way countermaund the said limitation of time so prefixed, & no longer: But that the said Merchant-Aduenturers, may during that time importe accordingly; any thing before in these presents, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Giuen at Our Court at Newmarket the second day of December, in the twelfth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fourtieth.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

ANNO DOM. 1614.